

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/660,843

Examiner

Neil Turk

Applicant(s)

PRANIS ET AL.

Art Unit

1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's reply filed 5/22/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15 and 29-52.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/17/04, 1/5/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of group I, claims 1-15 and 29-52, in the reply filed on May 22nd, 2007 is acknowledged.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 16-28 directed to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 16-28 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-15 and 29-52 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a solid phase extraction medium, a method of manufacturing a solid phase extraction medium, or a method of extracting an analyte from a sample, in which a solid phase extraction medium comprised of a fibril matrix comprised of sorptive and thermoplastic particles enmeshed therein, where the extraction medium is sandwiched between first and second porous support layers, which support layers are welded together and a portion of the solid phase extraction medium is bound within the welded seam.

Perman et al. (6,492,183) discloses extraction articles and methods in which a solid phase extraction medium is sandwiched between welded first and second porous support layers. However, Perman only teach sorptive particles enmeshed in the fibril matrix, and does not disclose thermoplastic particles enmeshed in the fibril matrix.

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support layers. However, Perman only teach sorptive particles enmeshed in the fibril matrix, and does not disclose thermoplastic particles enmeshed in the fibril matrix.

Good et al. (5,595,653) teaches a microcolumn for extraction of analytes from liquids in which a solid phase extraction layer made up of silica particles is compressed between upper and lower porous supports, but does not disclose a solid phase extraction medium which is a fibril matrix that has both sorptive particles and thermoplastic particles enmeshed in the fibril matrix.

Markell et al. (5,279,742) discloses a PTFE fibril matrix as the solid phase extraction medium in which sorptive particles are enmeshed, but does not disclose that thermoplastic particles are also enmeshed in the matrix.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

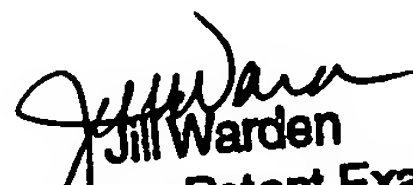
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil Turk whose telephone number is 571-272-8914. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NT


Jill Warden
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700